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Changing of the Guard

by J. Michael Kelly

October 1, 1995 was an eventful day for both Steve Jungst and myself. He was relieved of a mighty burden after ten years of yeoman service to the Forestry Department, and I attempted to shoulder that load on somewhat wobbly knees. From everything I have seen and heard, Steve has served both Iowa forestry and the ISU Forestry Department well during his term at the helm. I am sure we all wish him well as he returns to a full time role in teaching and research in the department.

This is my initial venture into Iowa, having spent the bulk of my professional career in Tennessee and Alabama working for the Tennessee Valley Authority. I am not a total stranger to the Midwest having spent time in Indiana first as a post-doc with the Department of Forestry and Natural Resources at Purdue and later as a Visiting Professor of Forest Soils in the Agronomy Department. During my tenure with TVA I worked largely as a researcher and later as a research manager in programs that were focused on evaluating impacts of air pollutants on forest ecosystems. These efforts ranged from calibrated watershed studies of nutrient cycling to controlled exposure studies of tree response to acid rain, sulfur dioxide, and most recently biosphere ozone. I have tended to focus much of my personal research efforts in recent years in the area of forest soils and the interactions between air pollutants and plant nutrition; as well as having a hand in developing mechanistic modeling approaches to describing nutrient uptake and carbon allocation in trees. I hope to continue at least some of the tree nutrition work as I find my research niche in the department.

While my twenty one years of service with TVA were most satisfying and rewarding, I was ready to explore new ground and take a shot at teaching on a regular basis. I had previously taught a forest watershed management course at the University of Tennessee on an adjunct basis and later undergraduate basic soil science at Purdue. The teaching opportunities and the very exciting research program in agroforestry were two big determinants in my decision to move to Iowa. One of my goals is to help the research program refine its focus and become the premier agroforestry research institution in the country.

Outside of the work place I have a number of personal interests that I pursue with varying regularity. Aviation has been a lifelong interest. I am an active pilot, a former aircraft part-owner (that had to be left behind in Tennessee with my former partners), and a member of the Experimental Aircraft Association. I also enjoy scuba diving and am a licensed amateur radio operator. For the last five years I have particularly enjoyed working as a stone mason at a local heritage museum near my former home.

I look forward to having a role in the future of forestry in Iowa and a part of the excellent group of individuals that constitute Forestry at ISU. I am sure that with your support and input we can continue to build on the strong framework that Steve has provided.

**We all live with the objective
of being happy; our lives are
all different yet the same.**

-Anne Frank